

Pan African Sanctuary Alliance: Saving Africa's primates - and their future

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PASA is at the forefront of primate rescue, rehabilitation and reintroduction in Africa and its programs have rescued thousands of endangered gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and monkeys from the bushmeat and pet trades.

The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance aims to stem the flow of orphaned, injured and displaced primates into African Sanctuaries, provide the highest levels of care to those already in sanctuaries, and to work closely with local communities as the ultimate custodians of primates.

Starting out as a loose affiliation of sanctuaries in 2000, PASA has matured and developed into a model of coordination and cooperation emulated by other sanctuary alliances. Now 21 members strong, in 12 countries, our network of rescue centers across Africa cares for thousands of chimpanzees, gorillas and monkeys rescued from poachers and illegal traders.



Rescued baby chimpanzee

PASA is the only organization that straddles the line between conservation work and captive care. No other NGO deals with forest protection, law enforcement, education, veterinary care, management training, government relations, international policy and conservation science on PASA's scale.

What is the secret to our success? Three things: Willingness to share resources, partner on projects, and the recognition we are more powerful working together than separately.

Members are accredited through a process of on-site inspection and compliance with minimum standards. Best practice guidelines documented in operations, veterinary health care and education manuals provide direction for high levels of professionalism. All PASA member sanctuaries are members of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

PASA believes that our annual managers meetings and technical workshops for sanctuary educators and veterinary health care professionals are a valuable part of the growth, cooperation and mutual support of the organization, and is what makes PASA such an effective alliance.

Our job is to rescue primates and rehabilitate them. It is often difficult, sometimes heart breaking, and ultimately rewarding work. We support sanctuary development and capacity building. We build strategic alliances, leverage resources, carry out education and awareness programs, conduct research, protect land and in some cases release animals back into the wild.



1. PASA Education Workshop Coordinator Jeta James Fawoh opening the 2011 workshop.

2. PASA sanctuary veterinarians working on training exercise.

3. Learning gorilla pathology at the 2011 veterinary healthcare workshop.



Partnerships are key to every aspect of our work, and we know that conservation doesn't happen in a vacuum of science and land use planning. Programs must assist people in making good decisions about conservation and land use habitats. Successful conservation requires a complex web of human relationships that lead to action on behalf of the environment and species. Primate sanctuaries provide an unparalleled opportunity for individuals and communities to have direct experience of the plight of primates.

PASA's low overhead and dedicated, effective programs ensures that resources will go directly to benefit the sanctuaries and PASA training programs where it is most effective. Every day, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance works to save the lives -and the future- of gorillas and chimpanzees, bonobos and drills, baboons and more. Together we can make a difference.



Rescued guenons at a PASA sanctuary

Visit www.pasaprimates.org

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